

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SCSE-00 SNM-02 SCA-01 H-02 PA-02

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DHA-02 SS-15 NSC-05 DEAE-00 /072 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASC, MX

SUBJECT: AMERICAN ESCAPE COMMITTEE

1. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE PROVIDED DEPARTMENT SPOKES-
MAN TODAY:

Q: THE TEN O'CLOCK NEWS ON CHANNEL 5 INCLUDED AN ITEM ON
A SO-CALLED AMERICAN ESCAPE COMMITTEE, WHOSE SPOKESMAN
CLAIMED THAT THEY INTEND TO HELP U.S. CITIZENS BREAK OUT
OF MEXICAN JAILS AND BOMB MEXICAN BUILDINGS. WHAT IS THE
STATE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO THIS?

A: IF THIS GROUP ACTUALLY INTENDS TO CARRY OUT ITS
THREATS, THEY ARE TERRORISTS, AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT
DEPLORES ALL TERRORIST ACTIVITY.

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Q: IS THIS CONSPIRACY IN VIOLATION OF U.S. CRIMINAL LAW?

A: IT APPEARS THAT CONSPIRACY TO INJURE FOREIGN PROPERTY ABROAD MAY COME UNDER SECTION 956, TITLE 10, U.S. CODE, AND IS PUNISHABLE BY FINE AND IMPRISONMENT, BUT INTERPRETATION OF CRIMINAL LAW IS THE PURVIEW OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

Q: WHAT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT DOING TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF U.S. CITIZENS IN MEXICAN JAILS?

A: THE STATE DEPARTMENT EXERTS EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE RIGHTS OF U.S. CITIZENS IMPRISONED IN MEXICO OR ELSEWHERE ARE PROTECTED. HOWEVER, OUR EFFORTS ARE NOT DESIGNED TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF PERSONS CONVICTED UNDER MEXICAN LAW, BUT TO SEE THAT THEY RECEIVE THEIR RIGHTS UNDER THE LAWS OF THAT COUNTRY. KISSINGER

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